

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 PCH-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EA-11 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

SCEM-02 /165 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WIWRIGHT

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APPROVED BY NEA/P:WIWRIGHT

S/PRS - MR. BRAY (INFO)

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER

----- 098860

R 152018Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
AUGUST 15, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IS
DOING, SEEING SISCO TODAY?

A. I WILL, AS SOON AS I CAN FIND OUT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHO INITIATED THE MEETING?

A. NO, I DON'T.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE REPORTS OF NORTH KOREAN
PILOTS FLYING IN THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE?

A. YES; WE HAVE REPORTS OF THEIR PRESENCE THERE. ON
BACKGROUND -- THEIR NUMBERS ARE NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR TO US BUT
PROBABLY DON'T EXCEED ABOUT 30. AND THEY HAVE BEEN THERE
FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BUT DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED
IN ANY OF THE RECENT DUST-UPS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THEIR ROLE IS? ARE THEY
SUPPOSED TO BE --

A. APPARENTLY, TO HELP TO SORT OUT.

Q. TRAINING?

A. IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO SORT OUT.

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Q. DO YOU HAVE THE LOCATION AS TO WHERE THEY ARE?

A. I DON'T HERE.

Q. IT SEEMS TO ME THERE WAS A REPORT OF THIS SORT ONCE
BEFORE, IN WHICH THEY DESCRIBED A TRAINING ROLE OR SOME-
THING. DO YOU RECALL THAT?

A. ON BACKGROUND, ONE WOULD HAVE TO HOLD THAT POSSIBILITY OPEN. IT'S DIFFICULT TO SORT OUT. YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTER -- WASN'T IT? -- WENT TO PYONGYANG IN THE SPRING.

Q. IS IT OUR OWN INFORMATION OR DOES IT COME FROM A THIRD COUNTRY?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE TECHNICAL ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION. I WOULD JUST ASSUME, FROM THE FACT THAT I'M CONFIRMING IT HERE, THAT WE'RE SATISFIED WITH THE INFORMATION, IN ANY EVENT.

Q. Q. HOW LONG HAVE WE KNOWN OF THIS?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. HOW MANY OTHER NATIONALITIES MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN THE KIND OF ACTIVITIES THAT THE NORTH KOREANS ARE ENGAGED IN IN EGYPT?

A. OFFHAND, I DON'T KNOW.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THERE ARE ANY OTHERS?

A. OFFHAND I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q. DO YOU KNOW OF ANY FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND NORTH KOREA UNDER WHICH THIS PARTICIPATION IS PROVIDED FOR OR OTHERWISE?

A. NO. AND I THINK THAT KIND OF QUESTION BEGINS TO TAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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US TO THE POINT AT WHICH YOU SHOULD BE PUTTING THOSE TO THE EGYPTIAN INTERESTS SECTION.

Q. OH, SURE; WE CAN DO THAT. BUT I JUST THOUGHT THAT IN YOUR LOOKING INTO THIS YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTED A REPORT IN MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY, FIVE MONTHS AGO STATING THAT THERE HAD BEEN SUCH AN AGREEMENT ON THAT.

A. NO.

Q. THERE IS A STORY IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. THE POINT THAT INTERESTS ME IS THE REPORTS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM OIL COMPANIES AND OTHERS TO PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO COME TO SOME AGREEMENT WITH

THE ARABS IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE SUPPLIES OF U.S. OIL.
CAN YOU ADDRESS YOURSELF TO THAT SUBJECT?

A. I CAN'T TODAY. LET ME LOOK INTO IT FOR YOU. I DON'T
KNOW THE FACTS OF THE MATTER.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THE POSITION TAKEN
BY THE STANDARD OIL OF CALIFORNIA'S LETTER TO ITS STOCK-
HOLDERS?

A. I THINK NOT.

Q. ARE WE APPREHENSIVE IN ANY WAY ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF
THESE PILOTS IN EGYPT. WHAT IS OUR FEELING ABOUT THIS
GROUP?

A. SIMPLY THAT WE'VE NOTED THEIR PRESENCE.

Q. WE'RE NOT CONCERNED?

A. WE'VE NOTED THEIR PRESENCE.

Q. AS A TECHNICAL MATTER, WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT
GIVE US SOMETHING ON THE MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR DINITZ
AND MR. SISCO?

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A. I'LL TRY TO DO THAT AS EARLY THIS AFTERNOON AS WE CAN.
END QUOTE. ROGERS

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BAGHDAD AND SANAA.

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